



Wiki tool feature comparison: PBwiki			
URL for teacher accounts: http://pbwiki.com/education.wiki Click Create a wiki and select "education" as the type. Sample wiki using this tool: http://teachersfirst.pbwiki.com/			
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Features available:	Yes/no	What they call it, and how to find it	Reviewer comments
No cost version for classroom use	Y		Limited features and file space on free version
Safe, individual student accounts	limited		As of December, 2008, PBwiki version 2.0 offers the ability to register students without email addresses. Use the classroom features to access this.
Mass enrollment/registration of students and other wiki members	sort of		Classroom accounts generates a list of usernames and passwords FOR you
Can "see" student passwords so teacher can help the forgetful or change	Y	see Classroom Accounts	You can create a full list without emails
Multiple wikis for a single class or teacher	Y		Anyone can make a new wiki any time
Easy-to-find links to outside wikis and places possibly inappropriate for the classroom?	N (That's GOOD)		Selecting education as wiki type removes this option
Advertising free	Y		
Control of access to VIEW wiki	Y	Make it "private" on set-up	
Control of access to edit wiki	Y		Free accounts allow all visitors to edit if they join. You can also control edit permission by page as of version 2.0
Ability to track "vandalism" and reset to	Y		Improved in version 2.0. Those who edit must join

previous versions			first, so you can see who makes changes.
Selective permissions to certain pages within wiki	Y	but costs money	new in version 2.0 - PREMIUM feature only
Customizable "look"	Y	Settings> skins	Very limited options for free version
Page templates available	Y	Basic set of three options in free version	
Self-created templates available	Y	Tag any page you make with the word template, and it will show as an available template	
Includes blog features/tools	N		Does include a place for logged-in users to comment on a page
Supports images	Y		Free version limited to 10MB of file storage. That's not much!
Supports audio files	sort of		Only by links to other web servers or file upload (quantities very limited)
Notifies admin (teacher) of changes via email	Y	Check "notify my of changes" box at log-in	
RSS feed for changes available	Y	RSS icon at bottom of page	
Supports video	sort of	Edit	Can embed videos hosted elsewhere, including built in connection to YouTube
Supports file upload	Y	Files button on each page	Storage limit of 10MB on free spaces
Image resizing tool included	N		
Easy text editor	Y	Clickable editor	
Spell check available	N		
Other features: "plug-ins" (widgets)	Y	From edit toolbar	Several categories: Productivity (such as calendar), Photos, PBMagic, Video, and Chat. Some connect to outside sites with content that may be blocked or not classroom-appropriate
Other features: generate portfolio from wiki	Y	Wiki information: portfolios	Can download as a pdf or slideshow "portfolio." Very handy for teachers seeking to grade a wiki

			offline or in hard copy.
Other features: "snapshot" backup	Y	Admin> settings>backup	Paid versions get full backup. Free one is text-only.
Online support	Y	Help in upper right and in context on certain items	Connects to a user forum. Forum is a bit cluttered. There is also a blog.
Human support	Y	PBWiki employees monitor the help boards. Email support available for classroom wikis.	
Easy set-up (rate 1 to 5, 5 being easiest)	3	Quickstart 3 steps. Creating the wiki and defining its "key" (password) is very quick.	Steps are designed for general wiki use, not just for education, so instructions do not mention things a teacher might want to know. MANY mentions of upgrading for \$.

Overall comments:**Pro:**

Page editor toolbar is good and familiar-looking for Word users. Quick set up.

No "see other wikis" button readily visible for students to get into trouble.

VERY easy to get started in higher ed or less restricted environment where users can self register and use the "key."

Very flexible font formatting and choices.

Con:

Free version does not allow for different levels of user. This is a great limitation to teachers, since students can "ruin" pages a teacher creates.

Current change-over from a single key for each wiki to email log-ins is very confusing. (The setup procedure does not explain this well.)

No page locking in free version.

Accessibility to online tools that may have objectionable "public" content, such as YouTube.

Questions and buttons to upgrade peppered throughout the site and on every wiki page. (Might be difficult for some students to "see" past these.)

Page saving appears slow to our reviewers. One page errored out.

Reminders to upgrade to premium ubiquitous and annoying

Comments button on all pages—anyone logged in can comment

Log in requires email address except for classroom wikis- make sure yo join a classroom!

Requires premium acct for individual passwords to a wiki

Navigation area must be manually edited to add a new page to that area

Navigation tab can get lost behind other tabs at the right

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TeachersFirst Home

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